

and determination, and she has earned the gratitude of the countless individuals who have benefited from her work. I am extremely proud to call Katherine Kelly my friend and ally. She is truly an admirable individual and a great American.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN RICHARD A. GEPHARDT OF MISSOURI

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this time to recognize my good friend and our former colleague, Congressman Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, who recently received the Harry S. Truman Award for Public Service from the City of Independence, Missouri. This award is given annually to honor a distinguished public servant who best exemplifies the characteristics of President Harry S. Truman.

Congressman Richard Gephardt grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, and in 1958 graduated from Southwest High School. He is an Eagle Scout and is a recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. In 1962, he earned a bachelor of science degree at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and earned a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1965. After law school, Congressman Gephardt practiced law and set forth on a distinguished public service career that included serving the American people in military uniform and in elected office. From 1965 to 1971, Congressman Gephardt served in the Missouri Air National Guard. From 1968 to 1971, he served as a Democratic committeeman in St. Louis, and from 1971 to 1976, he served as a St. Louis alderman.

In 1976, Gephardt ran for and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. From 1977 to 2005, Congressman Gephardt served the people of Missouri and our country with distinction and quickly became a leader within the Democratic Caucus. In 1984, he was elected chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and was elected House majority leader in 1989. He subsequently served as House minority leader from 1994 to 2005. Gephardt also twice ran for the Democratic Presidential nomination, in 1988 and in 2004. After retiring from Congress in 2005, Gephardt formed a consulting and public policy development firm.

Madam Speaker, Congressman Richard A. Gephardt exemplifies the best of American public service. He is so very deserving of the Harry S. Truman Award, and I know my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him, his wife, Jane, and their lovely family for their years of dedication to the American people.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WILLIAM E. ODOM

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to General William E.

Odum, a man of unquestionable character and undeniable devotion to our Nation. He served with distinction, provided experienced insight about our Nation's foreign policy decisions, and expressed a rare candor that made him an invaluable resource to everyone that worked with him, including the United States Congress.

On Friday, May 30, 2008, General Odom passed away at the age of 75. The course of his career traces the evolution of our military and intelligence communities over the past 25 years. He served as a senior military intelligence official for President Jimmy Carter, and then joined President Ronald Reagan as the director of the National Security Agency during the administration's second term. Following his retirement from the Army in 1988, after 34 years of active duty, General Odom continued his service by teaching at Yale University, working for the Hudson Institute, and writing scholarly works.

Chief among his laudable qualities, it was General Odom's candor that proved most refreshing and invaluable. A self-described military hawk, he was among the first military persons to speak out against the invasion of Iraq and he openly advocated a withdrawal. General Odom warned that military action in Iraq would be foolhardy and futile well before the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. In hindsight, his concerns were well founded and have since been validated, but before the invasion he was among the few willing to speak out loudly in opposition to the drumbeat to war. His background and depth gave intellectual credence to the growing opposition to the war, and he demonstrated that there were differences of opinion within our military and intelligence communities on the merits of the invasion.

To me and other members of the Defense Appropriations Committee, General Odom was a great source of experience and a wealth of knowledge. I came to rely upon his judgment and took counsel with him privately on issues related to our national defense. He was a thoughtful, steady guide on the most complex matters that face us today, and we are at a loss without him. More importantly, the Nation has lost a true and valued patriot.

Madam Speaker, we are saddened by General Odom's passing, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. May others learn from his example and may his memory stay with us forever.

TRIBUTE TO ROBIN AUGUST

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Robin August, recently awarded the title of 2007–2008 Baltimore County Teacher of the Year. Ms. August has been a teacher with Baltimore County Public Schools for 8 years, teaching mathematics at Deep Creek Elementary School and now Deep Creek Magnet Middle School.

Ms. August began her career in education in 1990, working for the Baltimore City Public School System. In 2000, she accepted a position at Deep Creek Elementary School in Baltimore County and is currently a mathematics teacher and team leader at Deep Creek Magnet Middle School.

As the team leader for the 6th grade at Deep Creek, Ms. August has been instrumental in developing and maintaining parental involvement that is necessary for the school to be successful. She consistently monitors the academic performance of her students in all of their classes in order to provide mentorship to the students and provide strategies to help them succeed. Throughout the year, Ms. August opens her classroom doors to teachers who are in need of professional development, modeling lessons that demonstrate excellence in teaching.

She has dedicated her career to improving achievement for her students, serving on many school improvement teams and holding positions as diverse as Student Council Advisor, curriculum writer, and mentor. As a member of the leadership team at Deep Creek Middle, Ms. August continues to bring new ideas to the school plan, helping to design better and more efficient ways of meeting the various needs of the students. Through the Teaching American History in Maryland program, she has published work with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Center for History Education and presented at the Maryland Conference for the Social Studies.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Robin August in her acceptance of the 2007–2008 Baltimore County Teacher of the Year Award. Her legacy as a dedicated, enthusiastic educator will be forever remembered by the grateful students who walk through her classroom doors. It is with great pride that I congratulate Robin August on her exemplary career in education and her outstanding performance at Deep Creek Magnet Middle School in Baltimore County.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIANS OF 2008

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 10, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend tens of thousands of youngsters who, this year, earned their high school diplomas as first in their respective graduating classes. The diploma in itself has come to symbolize promise and opportunity, the first step in a series of steps towards achieving the American dream, and I am proud of each and every student who earned one this year. But that honor is ever the more remarkable when awarded with a valedictorian title, an acknowledgement that its receiver is academically top-notch in his or her class.

These bright, young minds—freshly out of school, having ostensibly left adolescence behind and come into their own as educated, young adults—will inherit this world, as much our successes as our failures. It will be up to them to improve upon our legacy, to wield their ingenuity and knowledge to the benefit of their country and their world. It pleases me to know that there are steady, capable young hands out there prepared to mold, shape, and supply form to a better future.

These men and women are an exemplary class, many of whom will go on to earn college degrees, serve America in some form of public service, travel abroad, raise families, or